

**U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

SUPERFUND UPDATE - FACT SHEET

**JACKSONVILLE ASH SUPERFUND SITE
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

UPDATE

November 1999

EPA CONTACTS

**Please call, email or write with any
questions...**

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Bradham Brooks Public Library
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Jacksonville, Florida 32208
(904)765-5402
Mon. - Wed. 10am -9pm
Thur. - Sat. 10am - 6pm
Sun. - 1pm - 5pm

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues this Fact Sheet as part of its public participation responsibilities under Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The Fact Sheet summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in documents contained in the Administrative Record. The Record and an Information Repository for the Jacksonville Ash site are currently being established at the following locations:

Emmett Reed Center
1093 West 6th Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32209
(904) 630-0958
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm & 6pm - 9pm
Sat. 8am - 5pm

Jacksonville Urban League
903 West Union Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32204
(904) 366-3461
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm

Site Description and Background

The Jacksonville Ash site is comprised of three facilities in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida: the Forest Street Incinerator, the 5th & Cleveland Incinerator, and the Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park.

The **Forest Street Incinerator** is located at the southwest corner of McCoy's Creek Boulevard and Margaret Street in Jacksonville. It occupies approximately 10.5 acres of land in a primarily residential area. The site is bounded by Forest Street to the south, McCoy's Creek Boulevard to the north, Margaret Street to the east, and Goodwin Street to the west. An earth berm runs along the central portion of the site. The Forest Park Head Start School is currently on the site as well as several playgrounds that the students use. A 6-foot chain-link fence encloses the former incinerator operating area in the northeast corner of the property, however a portion of the fence on the east side is torn down (*see Figure 1: Forest Street Incinerator*).

The site is a former City of Jacksonville municipal solid waste incinerator that operated from the 1940's until the 1960's. A City Pound and a hospital have also reportedly operated on the property in the past. During the operation of the incinerator, ash residue was produced and disposed of on site or in the site vicinity. A considerable portion of the former incinerator's combustion ash was evidently deposited at or near the incinerator, though no estimate of the total amount of site-generated ash is known. The incinerator was later removed, and the incinerator operating area became a depository for construction debris. A construction debris pile was located east of the earth berm, and was removed prior to assessment activities.

The **5th & Cleveland Incinerator** is located northeast of the intersection of 5th Street and Cleveland Street, approximately 1 mile north of downtown Jacksonville. The 9-acre site contains two basketball courts, a baseball diamond, a picnic area, and two buildings. The site is currently used as Emmett Reed Park (a public park), and Emmett Reed Community Center/Head Start School. A day-care center is located east of the site, and public housing units are located northwest of the site. The Mt. Herman Elementary School is located northeast of the site behind the community center, and the H.R Lewis Petroleum company and some residential properties are located on the south side of the site (*see Figure 2: 5th & Cleveland Incinerator*).

The site was originally used as a cemetery, and from the 1940's until the 1960's the site was the location of a City of Jacksonville municipal incinerator. The facility reportedly disposed of incinerator ash on site, in several areas, including what is now Emmett Reed Park, behind Emmett Reed Community Center, and along the eastern right-of-way of Francis Street. The disposed ash and clinker are visible in some areas of the site.

Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park is a municipal park located on Price Road northeast of the intersection of Moncrief Road and Soutel Road. The park site is bordered by the Ribault River on the east, by residences on the south and northeast, and light commercial development on the west and northwest. The Park contains a playground, public restroom facility, and several picnic shelters. Parking is provided by two lots at the end of a paved roadway that extends north from Price Lane. A small fish pond lies immediately east of the second parking lot. Beyond the fish pond is a drainage ditch that runs through the central portion of the site, extends north from Moncrief Road, and ultimately discharges into an unnamed tributary of the

Ribault River. The park is enclosed by a barbed wire fence (*see Figure 3 - Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park*).

Very little information is available regarding the history of the site. The City of Jacksonville reportedly used the site for disposing ash from the 5th & Cleveland municipal incinerator from the late 1940's until the 1960's. After this, the site was reportedly once used as a quail farm. A past study of aerial photographs show that sometime during the late 1960's until 1977, the southeast corner of the site was used as a junk car lot, and pits were present to the west of the lot (the purpose of the pits is unknown). The Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park was constructed after 1988.

Enforcement History
(*See Figure 4: Site Assessment Process*)

In 1994, the **Forest Street Incinerator** was investigated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) when the City of Jacksonville submitted a proposal to develop the site for recreational purposes.

The City of Jacksonville conducted a Preliminary Contamination Assessment at the site and found elevated lead levels in the soil and groundwater due to the presence of incinerator ash on the site.

On request from FDEP, the City performed a Contamination Assessment in 1995 and confirmed that lead was present at significantly elevated levels. As an interim measure, a fence was installed to restrict access to the highly impacted area in the northeast corner of the site where the former incinerator had been.

In early 1996, the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator** was investigated and ash with elevated levels of lead and arsenic (some above EPA screening levels) were found in surface soils at the Emmett Reed Park and at nearby private residences.

FDEP issued the City a Warning Letter for the presence of ash and elevated levels of lead that violated Florida statutes and rules. The City responded by beginning interim measures, such as covering the exposed ash with gravel, sod, and compost.

In July 1996, the City submitted a Contamination Assessment Plan (CAP) to FDEP proposing work necessary to assess the nature and extent of contamination at the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator**. A Contamination Assessment Report has not been submitted to FDEP documenting this assessment.

In October 1996 the **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park** was investigated when an FDEP representative conducted a site walkover and observed clinker ash-like material covering a large portion of the property. Rubbish along the banks, and leachate in the standing water of the drainage ditch was also noted.

During 1996, FDEP requested the City of Jacksonville to enter into Consent Orders for the cleanup of the

incinerator ash sites. The City declined to sign Consent Orders for the **Brown's Dump** site (also in Jacksonville), the **Forest Street Incinerator**, and the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator**. In late 1996, FDEP requested EPA take the enforcement lead at the **Brown's Dump, Forest Street Incinerator, 5th & Cleveland Incinerator**, and **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park** sites since the sites were associated because of the similar incinerator ash sources.

In October, November, and December of 1996, FDEP conducted Preliminary Assessments at the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator, Forest Street Incinerator**, and **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park**, respectively. All three assessments concluded that the soil exposure pathways at each site were of major concern due to the presence of clinker ash material, its unknown extent at the sites, and historical data that indicates elevated heavy metals (including lead and arsenic) are present in municipal incinerator ash. The **5th & Cleveland Incinerator, Forest Street Incinerator**, and the **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park** were recommended for further CERCLA action on High Priorities.

In November 1996, EPA requested the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to perform a Health Consultation for the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator** using existing data to evaluate the potential for health effects in children from exposure to lead in the soils. It concluded that the limited sampling and analyses that were conducted show that lead is present at levels of public health concern; however, the sampling is not adequate to characterize the nature and extent of contamination. ATSDR also concluded that the temporary measures implemented at the site (covering the ash with gravel, sod and compost) are effective in minimizing potential exposures to contaminants in the ash, though not considered to be protective in the long-term. ATSDR recommended that the temporary measures be adequately maintained to minimize potential exposure, until the nature and extent of contamination has been characterized and permanent remedial actions are implemented.

In January 1997, EPA requested ATSDR to perform a Health Consultation for the **Forest Street Incinerator** also. It concluded that the site is a public health hazard and long-term incidental soil ingestion by children or adult trespassers on the most contaminated part of the site (northeast quadrant) could interfere with proper blood formation. It also concluded that the concentrations of the other metals found in the soil are not a public health hazard. ATSDR recommended that access be restricted to the northeast quadrant of the site where the former incinerator had been. They also recommended that the surface soils be sampled for complex organic chemicals (including PAHs and PCBs) and that the vegetables grown in the contaminated soils be tested.

In 1997, EPA conducted a series of sampling events, analyzing for metals, organics, pesticides/PCBs, and dioxins in soils, surface water, sediments and groundwater at each of the three sites (**Forest Street Incinerator, 5th & Cleveland Incinerator**, and **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park**). Three separate Site Inspection Reports were completed in December 1997 that presented the results, conclusions and recommendations for the sites.

- ! For each of the three sites the soil exposure pathways are of major concern because of the direct exposure risk to elevated levels of lead and arsenic - the main contaminants of concern.
- ! The groundwater migration pathway is also of concern at all three sites due to the detection of elevated levels of inorganic constituents in the surficial aquifer.
- ! The surface water migration pathway is of concern at the **Forest Street Incinerator** because elevated levels of arsenic and lead were detected in sediment samples from McCoy's Creek.
- ! The surface water migration pathway may be a potential concern at the **5th & Cleveland Incinerator**;

no surface water or sediment samples were collected during the Site Inspection.

- ! The surface water migration pathway is of major concern at the **Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park** because of the detection of several inorganic and organic constituents, including arsenic, lead and PCBs at elevated levels in sediment samples collected from Ribault River (a fishery and designated recreational area).

Recent Activities

In May 1999, EPA sent Special Notice Letters to the City of Jacksonville identifying them as a Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) to the Jacksonville Ash site. The City was asked to voluntarily enter into an Administrative Order by Consent with EPA to perform a Remedial Investigation and a Feasibility Study for the site.

On September 1, 1999, EPA and the City of Jacksonville signed the Administrative Order by Consent, and work on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study has begun.

Future Activities

(See Figure 5: Superfund Process)

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to determine the full nature and extent of contamination. The RI work plan will be presented to the community early next year.

When the RI is complete, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be done to evaluate possible cleanup alternatives for the site. On average, it takes 18 months to complete an RI/FS.

EPA will choose a remedy from this FS and propose it to the public for comment.

A final remedy will be chosen, taking into consideration public comments, and the site will be cleaned up

EPA is currently developing a mailing list to keep the community informed of current and future activities related to the Jacksonville Ash Site.

Please send your address to EPA (at the address below) if you would like to be included on this mailing list.

Re: Jacksonville Ash Site mailing list

US EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303.

Figure 4: Site Assessment Process

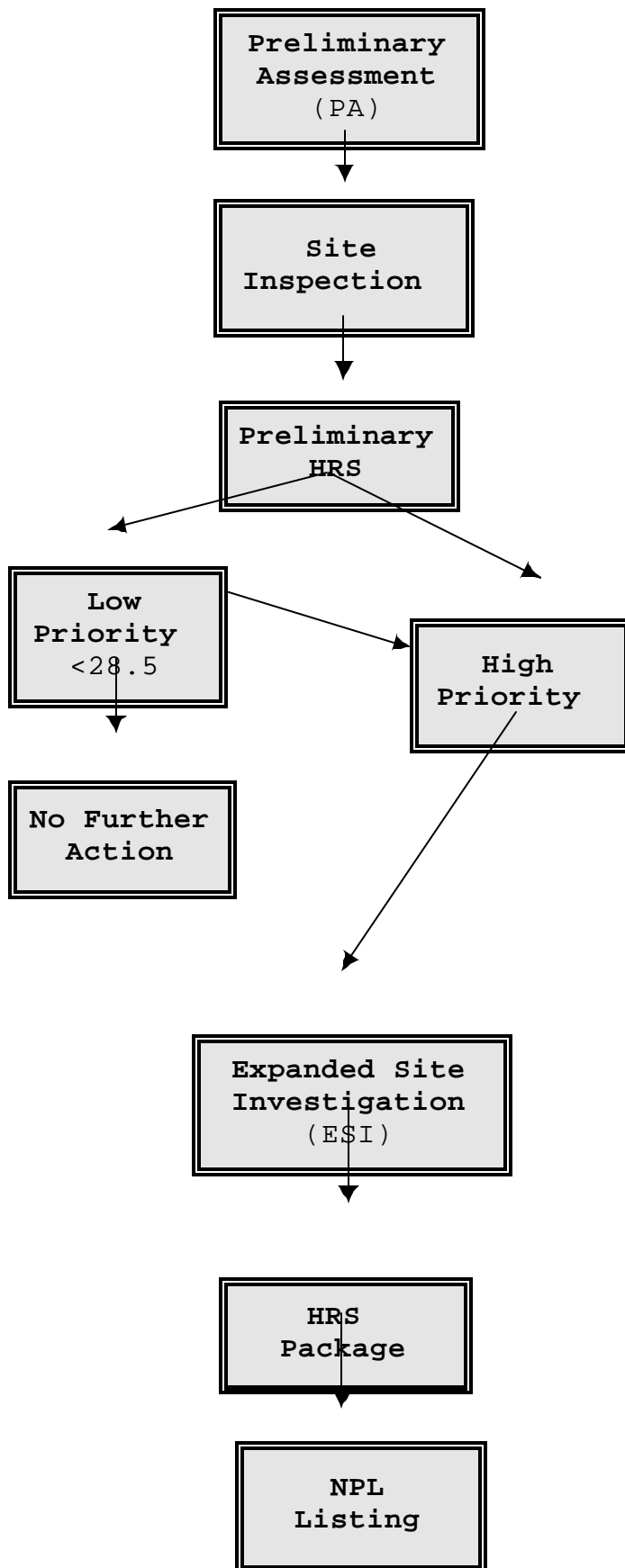


Figure 5: Superfund Process

